

Individuals who are convicted in a state or federal court of having TANF benefits in two or more states at the same time are disqualified from receiving TANF benefits for ten years; and

Financial penalties and possible disqualification for intentional program violations or fraud.

### How is the benefit amount decided?

The amount of the benefit is based on the number of eligible persons in the household, income available to the household members, allowable work expense and dependent care deductions, and the current level of payment established by the North Dakota Department of Human Services.

### Where can I apply for TANF?

Apply for TANF at your local county social service office.

### How often must I report changes?

You must report any changes in your household (such as loss or gain of a household member, income, assets, address, or living arrangements not previously reported) within five days. Failure to do so within five days of the change could result in a loss of benefits. You must complete a monthly report each month. This is the means by which you report your household's income, work-related expenses, and other changes that may affect eligibility.

### What TANF rights do I have?

You have the:

- A** Right to have your application acted upon without undue delay.
- B** Right to prompt written notice of any decision;

- C** Right to review policy manual(s);
- D** Right to be treated with courtesy and respect;
- E** Right to freedom from any violation of your privacy or personal dignity;
- F** Right to freedom from any disclosure of information concerning your circumstances except as they may relate directly to the administration of the program;
- G** Right to be assisted by a friend, relative, or legal counsel,
- H** Right to request a hearing if you believe that an action taken which affects your eligibility or grant amount is incorrect; and
- I** Right to file a written complaint if you believe that you or members of your household have been discriminated against by reason of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, political beliefs, handicap, or status with respect to marriage or public assistance. **The written complaint may be filed with the county social service office; the *North Dakota Department of Human Services Office for Civil Rights; Judicial Wing, 600 E Boulevard Ave, Bismarck, ND 58505-0250; or the Office of Civil Rights, Department of Health and Human Services, Federal Office Building, 1961 Stout Street, Denver, CO 80294.***

# TANF

## Temporary Assistance for Needy Families



**ND Department of Human Services**  
State Capitol - Judicial Wing  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck North Dakota 58505

## What is TANF?

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program is a monthly payment on behalf of children who are dependent and deprived of parental support under state law.

## Who is eligible for TANF?

Any needy child who is deprived of support or care because of a parent's death, continued absence from the home, or physical or mental handicap, and who is living in the home of a relative. If a household includes a child eligible for TANF, other household members including parents or adult caretakers may also qualify for TANF benefits.

## What are the TANF requirements?

Assets - The value of real and personal property and liquid assets owned by the TANF household is limited to \$3,000 for a single eligible person, \$6,000 for households of two, and \$25 for each additional person. The asset limit does not include the value of (1) a house or mobile home which is the household's usual residence; (2) clothing, furniture, appliances, and personal effects of limited value needed for day-to-day living; (3) one vehicle of any value; (4) Indian Trust or restricted lands; or (5) real property that a household is making a "good faith" effort to sell.

Income - All income that is available to a household must be considered although certain incomes and benefits are disregarded.

***Federal law requires information on each individual pertaining to income and assets be verified through computer cross matches with federal agencies such as the Internal Revenue Service, Social Security Administration and state Job Service for new and ongoing recipients.***

Social Security numbers - All recipients of TANF benefits are required to furnish Social Security numbers in order to be eligible for assistance. ***Refusal of the caretaker to furnish or apply for a Social Security number for any person whose needs are to be included in the household causes ineligibility for assistance.***

Child Support Enforcement - The caretaker relative with whom the dependent child is living shall:

- ① assign to the state any legal rights to support from any other person; and
- ② cooperate to obtain support by assisting in locating absent parents, in establishing paternity for children born out of wedlock, and in establishing and enforcing a support order. ***Refusal to cooperate, without "good cause," may result in the removal of the caretaker's needs from the TANF benefit and may eventually cause the whole household to be ineligible for TANF benefits*** .

State residence - A recipient must be a resident of the state.

Citizenship - A person must be a U.S. citizen or an alien legally admitted for permanent residence before August 22, 1996. New immigrants arriving after August 22, 1996, are not eligible for assistance for five years. This restriction does not apply to refugees or asylees.

Work requirements - Any eligible adult or teen parent, unless otherwise exempt, must participate in work activities for a minimum number of hours each week.

Lifetime limit - Households that include an adult who received AFDC and TANF benefits

on or after July 1, 1997 for 60 months will no longer be eligible for TANF benefits. Other states or tribes may have started their TANF Programs at an earlier date; those benefits will also count toward the lifetime limit. Exceptions to the lifetime limit will be granted only in cases of hardship and are limited by federal law.

Health Tracks - All dependent children and caretaker relatives under the age of 21 must be screened under the Health Tracks Program unless good cause exists. **A \$25 payment per child is available after completing a screening**

Social contract - All TANF households must complete an assessment that will be used to develop a social contract.

Miscellaneous provisions - The following policies also apply:

- ① TANF payments cannot be made to an expectant mother with no other children before the 6th month of a medically verified pregnancy.
- ② TANF payments will not be issued in amounts under \$1.

## Are there any other restrictions on receiving TANF benefits?

👉 Effective July 1, 1998, any child born to a TANF recipient will not receive a benefit if that child was conceived while the mother was receiving TANF benefits except if the child is born as a result of rape or incest;

👉 Benefits are also restricted for convicted drug felons, probation or parole violators, and fleeing felons;